



Dear Shetland Resident,

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE USE OF THE VIKING COMMUNITY FUND

We are delighted to invite you to take part in our community survey, which aims to give everyone in Shetland the chance to put forward their ideas and views about the use of the Viking Community Fund to benefit the people of Shetland.

The Viking Community Fund is the money the Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) will receive from the developers of the Viking Energy Wind Farm (VEWF). This is scheduled to start next summer and the fund will be over £2.2m a year - to be used to help sustain and develop our communities. This survey is a vital part of a wide-scale consultation to identify the community's priorities for using these funds and to help prepare a Business Plan which will form the basis of a legal agreement between SCBF and VEWF.

The consultation is being undertaken for SCBF by an independent research consultancy, IBP Strategy and Research. IBP have produced the enclosed survey questionnaire which aims to gather your ideas and views as to the priorities for use of the Fund. We hope that you will take the time to complete the survey by the closing date of **Friday 5th May**.

Your completed questionnaire should be returned in the enclosed Reply Paid Envelope. If you wish, you can complete the survey online by visiting the consultation website at: ibp.eu.com/vcfconsultation/take-part If you prefer you can provide your feedback by telephone. To arrange a telephone interview, please contact Jason Brown at IBP (j.brown@ibp.eu.com, 01698 532021). Please also contact Jason if you have any queries about how to complete the survey.

Your comments will help us to develop the key elements of the Business Plan for using the Viking Community Fund to help sustain and develop our communities. Please accept our thanks in advance for taking the time to share your ideas and views.

Eddy Graham, Director, IBP Strategy & Research (www.ibp.eu.com)

Chris Bunyan, Chair, Shetland Community Benefit Fund (www.scbf.org.uk)

The survey is anonymous and you are not asked to provide any information that would directly identify you. IBP will not share your response or any information that could indirectly identify you with SCBF or any other party, or in any published report. The information provided will be stored securely by IBP and will be securely destroyed when it is no longer needed for this project. IBP's Privacy Policy for research participants can be found at the following link: ibp.eu.com/research-participant-privacy-policy

ABOUT SHETLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND, THE VIKING COMMUNITY FUND AND THIS CONSULTATION

Shetland Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) is a non-charitable society for the benefit of the community which was established by the Association of Shetland Community Councils as an independent body to manage community benefit agreements with commercial renewable energy developers in the islands. Each of Shetland's 18 community councils can nominate a director of SCBF for election to the management committee.

SCBF has a "Heads of Terms" agreement with Viking Energy Wind Farm (VEWF) and its major shareholder, SSE Renewables. This sets out the framework for payments to be made from the Viking Community Fund which will start when the wind farm becomes operational, currently expected to be summer 2024.

The fund will be administered by SCBF using a Business Plan informed by the outcomes of this survey and the wider consultation, which will identify ways of supporting the community's priorities. The Business Plan, once approved by Viking Energy, will allow the formal legal agreement between SCBF and VEWF to be signed. The Viking Community Fund can be used to support community and charity organisations and also, subject to some restrictions, businesses and individuals. It will be able to make grants and / or loans and to wholly or partly fund projects.

Why this consultation survey is important!

We need to know how Shetland's communities think the fund can benefit Shetland - what the priorities should be. The survey gives you the chance to tell us what you see as the good things about living and working in Shetland but also what you think are the challenges for the future. You will be asked to comment on possible priorities for the use of the Viking Community Fund and to put forward any specific ideas or other comments that you may have.

While £2,215,000 per year is a lot of money, it won't allow SCBF to do everything that people might wish. SCBF will need to look at how this new funding can complement existing funding sources, and to consider how the funding available can make the most positive difference. A key issue is to focus on those things that people in Shetland most value. Your response to the enclosed survey will therefore play an important part in shaping up the future plan for the use of the Viking Community Fund.

Further background information, including our "Shetland Today" background document, can be found at the consultation web pages at:

ibp.eu.com/vcfconsultation